

Commission for Women Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2007

Marta Kelsey called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. The following members were present, Darlene Johnson, Juanita Nether, Norma Pipkin, Andree Wells, Katie Werner and Rose Everett. Maureen Johnson and Pat Friend are excused. Jennifer Elkins-Roby is absent.

Announcements: The next Commission meeting will be April 16, 2007, 5:30PM.

Leah's House is looking for board members.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as corrected by striking: (who was nominated for membership during course of meeting) and adding guest after Ashley Evans.

Family Violence Coordinating Council: Andree Wells reported she attended the meeting and was welcomed by the members. Andree indicated that the group will begin to set goals and determine how they will communicate and coordinate services. She thinks they meet the last Wednesday of the month but she will call Kathy O'Brien to confirm when the meetings are held. She felt positive about the meeting and the commitment of the group.

Cynthia will contact the Public Affairs Office and explain the situation regarding Maureen's absence and get Andree on as a permanent substitute until Maureen can resume the responsibilities.

Women's History Posters: Marta said the posters have been received and delivered to Great Mills, Leonardtown and Chopticon High Schools. Marta, Juanita and Andree received the proclamation designating March as Women's history month from the county commissioners on March 6, 2007.

Woman of the Year Banquet : Generations of Women Moving History Forward. Norma reported the event would be held at the Dr. James Forrest Career and Technology Center on March 29, 2007. Norma asked members to arrive around 5:45 PM. She explained that the dance group was not allowed because they were going to do tap and the stage was carpeted. Darlene said she would try to make arrangements for a group of children that does gospel dancing to perform and she would get back to Norma that evening. The commission members agreed to pay for six children.

Norma will coordinate the flowers for the tables with Mr. Carney from the horticulture department at the school. She will also order a single rose wrapped in paper to give to the nominees.

Norma will purchase the awards from Blair's in California, MD. Cynthia will contact the store and set up an account. The banquet committee suggested the awards not exceed a total of \$200.00.

Cynthia asked to extend the deadline for registration until March 23, 2007 to allow for the newspaper article to attract some citizens. It is expected the article will be out on March 21, 2007. Norma will call Mr. Grocsh with a preliminary number on Thursday. A final count must go in no later than Tuesday, March 27, 2007 because he orders the food that day.

There were no nominees for Entrepreneur of the year. After reading the article in the enterprise about Mrs. Quade Marta followed -up with her family. She will be honored at the banquet. There were five nominees for Community Service. The members have scored their nominations.

By-laws: tabled due to Jennifer Roby's absence. Marta will contact Jennifer.

New Business: Marta suggested doing a shelter survey and wondered if it is the role of CFW to act as a mediator as a way of fostering better working relationships between providers. Another idea that was proposed was a brochure that describes what housing options are available.

The group decided to extend an invitation to Ella Mae Russell from the Department of Social Services and hear what she has to say, where are the gaps and how can CFW provide meaningful assistance, Cynthia will extend the invitation for the April 16, 2007 meeting.

Retreat: Juanita and Marta will begin to make plans for a retreat. Commission members will decide in April if the retreat will be held in June or in August based on the financial status after the Women's History Banquet.

Scrapbook: Juanita asked members to provide photos of events for the scrapbook. She also asked if it would be ok to take photos during the Commissioners Meeting when we receive the proclamation to be included in the scrapbook.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM .

Minutes prepared and submitted for approval by Norma Pipkin